



SERVE ILLINOIS



Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service

Summer 2009

Spring Brings Flurry of Service Events Statewide and Nationally

Governor Pat Quinn proclaimed the week of April 19-25, 2009 “National Volunteer Week” in Illinois. The national theme of the week was “Celebrating People in Action.” The week provided the opportunity for program managers and public officials to give thanks to the volunteers who dedicate their time and/or resources to helping others in their community.

The annual Dome Day event took place in Springfield during National Volunteer Week on April 22, 2009 at the Illinois State Capitol Complex. The purpose of Dome Day is to demonstrate and



Cory Foster, Director of Community Affairs from the Office of Governor Pat Quinn, presents the Service Awareness Day Proclamation to Dome Day Event Coordinator Jessica Herman, Civic Engagement Manager at City Year Chicago, at the Illinois Capitol Rotunda opening rally.



For more information on the President's budget proposal for CNCS and the programs authorized under the Serve America Act, see page 4.

build awareness of the impact of volunteer service

in Illinois. Approximately 265 people attended the event including 33 National Service programs (AmeriCorps, SeniorCorps, and Learn and Serve America), and 75 meetings were held with legislators and state officials to discuss service in Illinois. Excitement was high as just the day before, President Barack Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. The Act is expected to tremendously expand national service programs across the United States, as well as provide funding for nonprofit capacity-building activities. For more information on the Serve America Act, see page 4.

In conjunction with these events, Governor Quinn also signed a proclamation declaring April 22 as “Service Awareness Day” at the Capitol, and May 9-16, 2009 as National AmeriCorps Week in Illinois.

To learn more about the Serve Illinois Commission, AmeriCorps National Service or to find volunteer resources, visit Serve.Illinois.gov and get involved today!

From the Secretary



Service and the recent Serve America Act.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (also known as the "Recovery Act") provided over \$2.8 million to distribute across the current Illinois AmeriCorps portfolio administered by the Commission. This provided an immediate boost in the number of AmeriCorps members serving in these programs. Soon after, the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act passed Congress in bipartisan fashion, reauthorizing the CNCS for the first time in 15 years. The President has since proposed nearly 30 percent in increased funding for CNCS and its programs, including nonprofit capacity-building initiatives and seed money for the replication of social innovations for solving some

of our country's toughest problems (*See more about CNCS proposed funding on page 4*). The act takes effect on October 1, 2009, and implementation details are still forthcoming, pending Congressional appropriations.

These challenging times call for the public, private and nonprofit sectors to "step up" and fill needs where they exist. Individuals can "step up" too in their school, church, or neighborhood by focusing on the needs of children, the elderly, the poor and others who might be less able to care for themselves and most vulnerable to the effects of a national recession and increased demands for services.

Visit Serve.Illinois.gov today to learn how you can make a difference in your community and let's keep serving!

Sincerely,

Carol L. Adams, Ph.D., Secretary
Illinois Department of Human Services

From the Chair



The Serve Illinois Commission, through the Illinois Department of Human Services, has applied for \$1,350,000 (\$450,000 per year for three years) in grant funds from the Corporation for National and Community Service under the FY2009 Community-Based Learn and Serve (CBLS) funding opportunity. If funded, this project would be instrumental in establishing the state level infrastructure required to support service learning in the Department's Teen REACH (Responsibility, Education, Achievement, Caring and Hope) grant program. This approach will enable the Commission and the Department to involve tens of thousands of elementary, middle and high school students in service learning projects and to support an in-depth evaluation of service learning.

As mentioned in other parts of this newsletter edition, the Commission also received over \$2.8 million to place additional AmeriCorps members in existing AmeriCorps programs across the state, as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 passed by Congress this past spring. Nearly 300 members will be engaged in expanding existing services or addressing a new focus area such as employment and skills training or financial literacy.

The Serve Illinois Commission continues to reach out across the State of Illinois to involve all of Illinois' citizens in service activities and programs. Recently, new pages were added to our website regarding the Commission's outreach to special needs populations through the AmeriCorps Disability Outreach Project administered by Kreider Services of Dixon, Illinois. For information and resources about this project, visit: www.serve.illinois.gov/national_service/disability_outreach.htm.

If you are interested in learning more about the Commission or to volunteer for an organization near your home or place of work, visit Serve.Illinois.gov and search by interest area, zip code and/or county to find opportunities near you. If you are a volunteer or nonprofit professional and would like to learn more about the Commission's capacity-building activities including volunteerism conferences or other professional development opportunities, again visit Serve.Illinois.gov or call 800.592.9896.

In Service,

Howard Lathan
Chair, Serve Illinois Commission
Associate Executive Director, Chicago Area Project

21 Illinois Colleges Receive the 2008 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll Award

The Corporation for National and Community Service created the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll Award in 2006. The Honor Roll Award recognizes universities and colleges for their exemplary service learning and community service efforts locally and nationwide. A select number of institutions receive the award each year and it is the highest federal award that a university or college may receive.



The universities and colleges throughout Illinois receiving the outstanding award include **Benedictine University, Bradley University, Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Elmhurst College, Illinois College, Illinois Wesleyan University, John A. Logan College, Kaskaskia College, Knox College, Loyola University Chicago, McKendree University, Midwestern University, North Central College, North Park University, Northern Illinois University, Roosevelt University, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Trinity Christian College, Trinity International University, University of Illinois at Springfield and Western Illinois University.**

Congratulations Illinois Honorees!



Taylor McGillis

of Toluca, Illinois, and

Madelyn McGlynn

of Belleville, Illinois, were recently recognized for outstanding community service.

McGillis was recognized for protecting the environment. Since 2004, McGillis has recycled around 23,000 pounds of aluminum, which generated \$18,000 to be used to benefit his community and local charities.

McGlynn was recognized for taking care of animals. She works to build awareness for homeless and abused animals and does so by holding an annual art contest for the Humane Society in the Belleville Area.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards represents the United States' largest youth recognition program based solely on community service. The awards honor young people in grades five through 12 and are presented in conjunction with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

For more information or to nominate a youth in your community visit www.spirit.prudential.com.



The mission of the Serve Illinois Commission is to improve Illinois communities by supporting and enhancing traditional volunteerism and community service and the administration of the AmeriCorps program.

Serve.Illinois.gov

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NUMBERS you should know

CNCS Set to Receive Funding Increase

President Obama has submitted his FY 2010 budget request to Congress for the federal Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the funding agency of national service and related programs. This budget request includes funding proposals for new and continuing programs authorized under the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which was signed by the President on April 21, 2009.



The chart below, prepared by the Corporation for National and Community Service, indicates some of the key funding areas for continuation and/or expansion.

CNCS FY 2010 Budget Request Summary

(in millions)

	FY 2009 Enacted*	FY 2010 Request	Difference \$	Difference %
Total Program Expenses	\$811,639	\$1,053,316	\$241,677	29.8%
Learn & Serve America	37,459	39,500	2,041	5.4%
AmeriCorps NCCC	27,500	26,300	-1,200	-4.4%
AmeriCorps State & National	271,196	372,547	101,351	37.4%
AmeriCorps VISTA	96,050	97,932	1,882	2.0%
National Service Trust	131,075	195,637	64,562	49.3%
State Commission Administration Grants	11,790	16,000	4,210	35.7%
Senior Corps	213,785	220,900	7,115	3.3%
RSVP	58,642	63,000	4,358	7.4%
Foster Grandparents Program	108,999	110,996	1,997	1.8%
Senior Companion Program	46,144	46,904	760	1.6%
Innovation and Demonstration	14,753	5,500	-9,253	-62.7%
Social Innovation Fund	n/a	50,000	50,000	n/a
Volunteer Generation Fund	n/a	10,000	10,000	n/a
Evaluation	3,891	6,000	2,109	54.2%
Training / Technical Assistance	n/a	8,000	8,000	n/a
Disability Grants	4,140	5,000	860	20.8%
Salaries and Expenses	71,715	88,000	16,285	22.7%
Office of the Inspector General	6,512	7,700	1,188	18.2%
Total CNCS Request	889,866	1,149,016	259,150	29.1%

*Does not include \$201 million in funding from the American Recovery and Investment Act of 2009.

Adapted from: www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/2010_budget_justification.pdf

LEADERCORPS update

LeaderCorps Class of 2008-09 Holds Year-End Conference

On May 20-22, the 2008-09 class of LeaderCorps Illinois met for one final training retreat. The retreat took place at the Starved Rock State Park in Utica, Illinois to discuss "Life After AmeriCorps."

The event began with an evening AmeriCorps alumni networking session. LeaderCorps Members had the opportunity to learn from the alums' experiences and enjoyed hearing their stories of service. The group also discussed the importance of civic reflection, based on the article "What We Don't Talk About When We Don't Talk About Service" by Adam Davis.

The next day began with a service project. At Matthiessen State Park, LeaderCorps Members joined volunteers from a local bike club in making their land more bike-friendly. Some created new trails while others rerouted a bridge. After a morning full of hard work, it was gratifying to see how much progress was made together.



The 2008-2009 Class of Illinois LeaderCorps convened for their Year-End "Life After AmeriCorps" Conference at Starved Rock State Park in Utica, Illinois.

Facilitator Jeff Birdsall spent the rest of the day helping Members prepare personal mission statements that reflected their values and life goals. The exercise helped those leaving AmeriCorps to focus on goals after their term of service. Birdsall, also discussed tips for effective interviewing. LeaderCorps Members will take "Life After AmeriCorps" training back to their programs and assist other Members with meaningful reflection and planning for the next phase in a life of service.

—Submitted by Erin Wethern of Illinois Campus Compact AmeriCorps*VISTA and Dave Sweeney of Literacy Volunteers of Illinois Project VOCAL program.

MISSION

The mission of LeaderCorps is to connect AmeriCorps programs in Illinois through state, national and global days of service and to promote continued AmeriCorps alumni involvement.

spotlight

Learn and Serve Students Travel to Asia

As part of the first annual Youth Conference on Leadership, Service Learning and Global Citizenship, students from Harry D. Jacobs High School in Algonquin, Illinois traveled to Doha, Qatar and participated in "Project Ignition Team." Along with select students from Qatar schools, the Illinois team led by Driving Instructor Eliseo Saldivar promoted safe driving and seatbelt usage utilizing service-learning techniques.

According to Qatar's local English daily newspaper, The Peninsula, "... Displaying placards written with lipstick and eyeliners, carrying messages such as 'Kids +No Seatbelts = Death' and 'Thank You For Wearing Your

Seatbelts,' the students, numbering about 25, braved the scorching late morning summer heat for at least three hours as they stood at the side of the road flashing the messages they wanted to convey at the drivers passing by." (Source: www.thepeninsulaqatar.com)

Participating students observed children riding on parents' laps without a seatbelt, as well as busy intersections that were quite dangerous due to multi-lane roundabouts.

The local report continued, "... At the end of the activity, the students came up with ideas to promote safe driving, such as producing a 30-second video animation in slow motion to show the negative impact of accidents; a school competition for students doing a safe driving campaign in public places like restaurants and malls; and urging authorities to impose a stiffer penalty for seatbelt violations." (Source: www.thepeninsulaqatar.com)

The Youth Conference on Leadership, Service Learning and Global Citizenship was a partnership of National Youth Leadership Conference (www.nylc.org) and Reach Out to Asia, a charity initiative which began in November 2005 and operates within the framework of the Qatar Foundation. According to their website, the Qatar Foundation is "built on the principle that a nation's greatest resource is the potential of its people," and the foundation "aims to develop that potential internationally through a network of centers devoted to progressive education, research and community welfare." (Source: www.reachouttoasia.org)



State Capitol Conference Held to Promote Older Adult Volunteerism

The Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA), in collaboration with the National Governors Association (NGA), hosted **A Day of Celebration and Conversation about the Civic Engagement of Older Adults** at the State Capitol on May 11, 2009. The event, which included breakout sessions on education and training, employment and service, highlighted experts who then worked with participants to develop a blueprint for engaging older adults in Illinois.

This initiative began in June 2008 when Illinois was selected to participate in the NGA Policy Academy on the Civic Engagement of Older Adults. For the past year, IDoA has led this statewide effort, working with a 12-member core team and a 36-member advisory team, to develop strategies to get older adults in Illinois engaged in civic activity in their communities. The group had a particular interest to increase the proportion of seniors who are employed or participate in volunteer activities.



Jeff Turnbull, Director of RSVP of Peoria and Tazewell counties, and Dr. Barbara Hartnett, Executive Director, Peoria Friendship House, review their notes at the Day of Celebration and Conversation on the Civic Engagement of Older Adults in the Illinois Senate Gallery.

In addition to the experts who led the breakout sessions, participants also heard from The Honorable Deanna Demuzio, State Senator, on behalf of Senate President John Cullerton; Linda Hoffman of the National Governors Association, Center for Best Practices; Bob Gallo, state director of AARP; and a keynote address by Merri Dee, former WGN TV anchor from Chicago and state president of AARP.

Efforts for next steps were also announced with a proclamation from Governor Pat Quinn. The proclamation, "**Launch of 2010: The Year of the Engaged Older Illinoisan**," states that the year 2010 will mark a celebration of engaged citizens in communities and neighborhoods across the state with events that encourage participation in learning, service and work. Planning for those events will begin in January 2010.

Source: www.state.il.us/aging

AmeriCorps*VISTA Members Make Huge Impact in Respective Communities



In November 2008, the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Serve Illinois Commission launched an AmeriCorps*VISTA program dedicated to furthering the development of social safety net and capacity-building programs.

While still a very small program, these four AmeriCorps*VISTA Members have already had a huge impact in their respective communities and region:

Zachariah Green of Alexander County ACTION and the DHS Team Illinois project is promoting community improvement and empowerment through his work with local groups in Cairo.

Betsy Minor of the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network is working to create a volunteer court watch program that will assist those who have been victims of domestic violence.

Stephen Silberman of the Savanna Vision Network and DHS' Team Illinois project are partnering with local groups and agencies within Savanna in order to build a stronger community.

Beckie Stroud of I Sing the Body Electric program at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health System (Mattoon) is the East Central Illinois Volunteer Management Network Field Coordinator, and is co-chair of the first annual East Central Illinois Volunteerism Conference.



*Becky Stroud, Serve Illinois AmeriCorps*VISTA Member, takes notes for international volunteerism expert Martin J. Cowling at the East Central Illinois Volunteerism Conference in Champaign on June 11th.*

Other VISTA Members not a part of the DHS-Serve Illinois program but who partner regularly with the Commission include:

Elizabeth Swisher, Western Illinois University (Macomb) – www.volunteernow.info
Marsha Reardon, Parkland College (Champaign) – www.parkland.edu
Samantha Holley, Chicago HOPES (Chicago) – www.chicagohopes.org
Erin Wethern, Illinois Campus Compact (Chicago) – www.illinoiscampuscompact.org
Sara Mahoney, Jumpstart (Chicago) – www.jstart.org



Stephen Silberman, Team Illinois VISTA based at the Savanna Vision Network, coordinated a Spring Clean-up project, recruiting local youth from Future Farmers of America (FFA) of West Carroll High School to help clean up the railroad tracks in Savanna for Global Youth Service Day in April.



Governor Appoints Serve Illinois Executive Director

Governor Pat Quinn has appointed Ted Gibbs, a former AmeriCorps volunteer, to be the Executive Director of the Serve Illinois Commission. While serving as an AmeriCorps volunteer, Gibbs taught junior high in the Little Village neighborhood of Chicago and received a Masters Degree in Education from Loyola University Chicago School of Education. After completing his two volunteer years, Gibbs served as a Senior Education Policy Advisor to then Lt. Governor Quinn, coordinating the statewide Illinois Learn and Serve America program. The program engages over 52,000 K-12 students across Illinois in curriculum-based service learning projects. In 2007, Gibbs was appointed as a voting Commissioner on the Serve Illinois Commission.

Find a Volunteer
Opportunity Today!

Visit
Serve.Illinois.gov



In addition to the searchable portal of over 51,000 volunteer opportunities statewide, *Serve.Illinois.gov* hosts a wide variety of volunteer resources:

- AmeriCorps/National Service Information:
www.serve.illinois.gov/national_service/
- Volunteerism Research and Publications:
www.serve.illinois.gov/volunteerism/Trends.htm
- Statewide Volunteer Management Network:
www.serve.illinois.gov/volunteerism/network/
- Related Nonprofit and Volunteerism Web Links:
www.serve.illinois.gov/links/
- Serve Illinois Calendar of Events:
www.serve.illinois.gov/calendar/

If your agency has upcoming volunteerism or national service events, Web site links or professional development resources for web or newsletter publication, please send it to dhs.serveillinois@illinois.gov for consideration.

East Central Illinois Volunteerism Conference

The East Central Illinois Volunteerism Conference (ECIVC) was held on June 11, 2009 at Parkland College in Champaign, Illinois. Nearly 140 volunteer leaders from Bloomington to Effingham, and Springfield to Danville attended this first annual event. Martin J. Cowling of People First – Total Solutions from Melbourne, Australia provided the morning keynote, emphasizing that people are the key to success or the very reason for failure of a project, strategy, or company, including volunteer programs. Cowling presented a breakout session highlighting the ways staff can unknowingly sabotage the very programs they seek to manage and see flourish.



The Illinois Volunteer Management Network partners, working with the Serve Illinois Commission, launched this first annual event in their region in order to provide volunteer management professional development opportunities to those in the East Central part of the state. For more information, visit www.ecivc.net.

Steering Committee partners include:

- Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum
- Champaign-Urbana Area Project
- Community Foundation of East Central Illinois
- Eastern Illinois Food Bank
- Eastern Illinois University
- Illinois Department of Human Services
- Lumpkin Family Foundation
- McLean County Museum of History
- Mental Health Center of Champaign County
- Mid-America Preparedness
- Parkland College
- Pope for Peace Foundation/Gladys Pope
- Richland Community College – Project READ
- RSVP of Champaign County
- Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center
- Serve Illinois Commission
- U of I Extension, 4-H Youth Development
- United Way of Champaign County
- University of Illinois Urbana – Champaign

Save the Date

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Upcoming Days of Service

September 11, 2009

9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance
www.myGoodDeed.org

October 18-24, 2009

Kids Care Week
www.kidscare.org

October 24, 2009

Make a Difference Day
www.makeadifferenceday.com



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Illinois AmeriCorps Disability Outreach Project: Meeting the needs for AmeriCorps Members of all backgrounds and abilities.

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